

agencies with an intercity bus system. One of the figures that came up that I thought was very interesting that it's predicted by 1995, that 65 percent of Nebraska drivers will be over the age of 70 years. I don't think Senator Moore is here this morning, but I thought I would share with him, it gives us hope that perhaps as he matures he may get fewer speeding tickets in the future. But I think what happens is that we find elderly people that do need to move to retirement villages in larger communities because they cannot get onto these services. The next question you might ask is, why now? If we've needed it for so long, and we thought that the state could not afford to do this is one of the reasons we didn't do it in the past, why, in this times of General Funds that are so very hard to access, are we looking at introducing this bill? Timing is something I guess we always needed to take advantage of. And one of the things that's happened to us now is something that's called the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, that's federal legislation that's better known as ISTEA, and I know you've heard it some on this floor so far this year, and you'll probably be hearing an awful lot more of it in the future. Under Section 18 of ISTEA, it authorized that states are required to spend a portion of their apportionment, federal funds, highway funds, to carry out a program for the development and support of intercity bus transportation. What that says is the State of Nebraska is required to come up with an intercity bus program that is currently being done, planned. The Department of Roads has had public hearings throughout the state, and they will come up with an intercity bus system. If you can prove to the federal government that you're meeting the needs of an intercity bus system, you may keep part of the federal funds that's been given to you. If you have not, you will not be able to retain those funds. It's kind of a use it or lose it system. What that says is we have been appropriated, if you'll look at your fiscal note, over the last few years, in amounts that we'll look at approximately 100 to 150 thousand dollars in federal funds. To access those, though, you will need matching funds. Some of the questions that also have been asked is though how long can we manage to keep these federal funds? They have been...have been authorized, they have not been appropriated in the future. But I think we've dealt with this many times before, be it subsidized air fare, or many other things that we've looked at. It takes constant work. But I think you will find that the need will be there, and it will be used, and you will find the federal funds forthcoming as we go along. Can the amount of \$300,000, that's mentioned in the